

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 5, 2004. Claims 1 to 16 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,678 (Hoffman), Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,671,768 (Brown), and Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,842 (Takayama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,432 (Critz). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns storing of configuration ROM information in devices that communicate via the IEEE 1394 serial bus. According to one feature of the invention, configuration ROM information is stored in a predetermined first address area, and configuration information identical to the configuration ROM information is stored in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area. The information stored in the predetermined first address area (i.e., the configuration ROM information) can be read out by a first type of reading operation but cannot be read out by a second type of reading operation, while the information stored in the second address area (i.e., the identical configuration information) can be read out by the second type of reading operation. Additionally, a readable data size of the second type of reading operation is larger than that of the first type of reading operation. With the foregoing features, some devices that may have difficulty efficiently performing a block read of the configuration ROM information stored in the predetermined first address area and therefore require

multiple read operations, can more efficiently read out the configuration ROM information from the second address area using a different read operation, particularly where the information becomes large.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus comprising an interface arranged to connect to a serial bus compatible to or complying with the IEEE 1394 standard, and a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information identical to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, wherein information stored in the predetermined first address area can be read out by a first type of reading operation but cannot be read out by a second type of reading operation, information stored in the second address area can be read out by the second type of reading operation, and a readable data size of the second type of reading operation is larger than that of the first type of reading operation.

Amended independent Claims 8 and 15 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 5 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but more is more specifically directed to an information processing apparatus comprising an interface arranged to connect to a serial bus compatible to or complying with the IEEE 1394 standard, and a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information with a minimal format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information corresponding to the configuration ROM information with a general format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, wherein information

stored in the predetermined first address area can be read out by a first type of reading operation but cannot be read out by a second type of reading operation, information stored in the second address area can be read out by the second type of reading operation, and a readable data size of the second type of reading operation is larger than that of the first type of reading operation.

Amended independent Claims 12 and 16 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of storing configuration ROM information in a predetermined first address area that can be read by a first type of reading operation but not by a second type of reading operation, and storing configuration information identical to, or corresponding to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, where the information stored in the second address area can be read by the second type of reading operation in which a readable data size is larger than that of the first type of reading operation.

Hoffman is merely seen to teach a 64-bit unique ID for each 1394 node using ISO/IEC 13213 (formerly IEEE 1212) CSR registers for Node\_Vendor\_ID and Node\_Uncue\_ID (column 4, lines 42-46.). A 1394 address space is specified and a block of application memory is registered to shadow the specified 1394 address space so that asynchronous write/read/lock transactions to the 1394 address space have a real memory source. Thus, Hoffman merely uses a 1394 address space and a block to shadow the 1394 address space for asynchronous transactions. However, Hoffman is not seen to disclose or

to suggest at least the feature of storing configuration ROM information in a predetermined first address area that can be read by a first type of reading operation but not by a second type of reading operation, and storing configuration information identical to, or corresponding to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, where the information stored in the second address area can be read by the second type of reading operation in which a readable data size is larger than that of the first type of reading operation. Accordingly, amended Claims 1 to 16 are not believed to be anticipated by Hoffman.

Brown is seen to disclose a dynamic configuration ROM that uses two configuration ROM images: one which is "active" (12a) and the other being "update" (12b). According to the patent, when changes are made to the configuration ROM, they are made to the "update" ROM, and when the changes have been completed, the "update" and "active" images are switched so that the new configuration can be published to other devices. Thus, the two images are always different from one another such the one is not identical to the other. Moreover, Brown is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of storing configuration ROM information in a predetermined first address area that can be read by a first type of reading operation but not by a second type of reading operation, and storing configuration information identical to, or corresponding to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, where the information stored in the second address area can be read by the second type of reading operation in which a readable data size is larger than that of the first type of reading operation. Accordingly, amended Claims 1 to 14 are not believed to be anticipated by Brown.

Takayama merely discloses two configuration ROMs (8, 9) that each respectively store node information for transmission in different protocols. CR1 (8) stores node information for a first protocol which is used for transmission via a 1394 bus of a moving image signal (Sig1), while CR2 (9) stores node information for a second protocol which is used for transmission via the 1394 bus of a still image signal (Sig2). Thus, it is clear that the information stored in each respective configuration ROM is different information and is for different purposes. The Office Action also admits that the information is not identical.

Moreover, Takayama is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of storing configuration ROM information in a predetermined first address area that can be read by a first type of reading operation but not by a second type of reading operation, and storing configuration information identical to, or corresponding to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, where the information stored in the second address area can be read by the second type of reading operation in which a readable data size is larger than that of the first type of reading operation.

Critz is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Takayama, would have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, Critz is merely seen to disclose that, when a computer is booted, BIOS information is either loaded or shadowed into RAM. Thus, even if the shadowing of the BIOS into RAM in Critz could somehow be seen to correspond to storing identical configuration ROM information into two different address areas, a point which Applicants do not concede, Critz is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Takayama, would have resulted in at least the feature of storing configuration ROM information in a predetermined first address area that

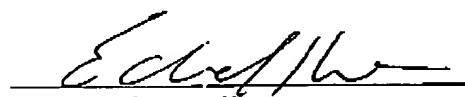
can be read by a first type of reading operation but not by a second type of reading operation, and storing configuration information identical to, or corresponding to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area, where the information stored in the second address area can be read by the second type of reading operation in which a readable data size is larger than that of the first type of reading operation.

Accordingly, Claims 1 to 16 are believed to be allowable over a combination of Takayama and Critz.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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